

THE ANTI-SPECULATOR MOVEMENT.*(For the Review.)***By W. H. KAUFMAN.****THE SOCIAL UNREST IS A REVOLT AGAINST PARASITISM.**

The so-called "Labor Problem" is caused by parasitism. The producers see that they are getting less than they should of the good things of advancing civilization. With productivity increased ten-fold, a hundred-fold, in some cases, the standard of living is lagging far behind. The abolition of parasitism will allay the social unrest. Nothing else will avail. Shorter hours; minimum wage laws; old age pensions and all similar efforts, however excellent in immediate results, will avail nothing toward allaying discontent so long as parasites live fatly while producers live leanly.

MUTUAL SERVICE IS THE FUNDAMENTAL LAW OF HUMAN SOCIETY.

Mutual service springs from love, the greatest thing in the world and the first and greatest commandment of the Bible.

Historically, the five great, legalized violations of the law of mutual service, have been:

- 1st—Slavery.
- 2nd—Private appropriation of Rent.
- 3rd—Profit.
- 4th—Taxation.

5th—Interest. (NOTE—Single Taxers do not believe normal interest (or the return to capital, not the return to privilege) is illegitimate. But it is quite true that much that is included in the term interest in the popular mind would disappear under the Single Tax, so that we need not quarrel with our author's five legalized violations of the law of service.—EDITOR SINGLE TAX REVIEW.)

While there have been manifold forms of parasitism, these five legalized varieties overshadow all others.

SLAVEHOLDER VS. SPECULATOR.

Slavery became obnoxious to humanity and has happily been largely abolished.

The present world-wide movement to abolish speculation in natural resources will abolish taxation and will tremendously abate the evils of Profit, Interest and Inheritance.

The solution of the "Labor Problem" and the consequent abolition of social unrest will be accomplished by the abolition of speculation in the population-made value of natural resources.

The two fundamentally distinct sorts of value are:-

- 1st—Labor-made values; and
- 2nd—Need-made values.

As examples of Labor-made values I name a pin, a boat, a stove, a house, all merchandise kept in stores—everything formed, transported by human labor.

As examples of Need-made values I name land, virgin forests, mines, power sites; any natural resource whose value is owing to human need and not to human labor.

A hand-planted forest is labor-made value. A virgin forest is a need-made value.

The "market price" of labor-made values is governed by the cost of production.

The "market price of need-made values is governed only by human need and human ability to pay—"All that a man hath will he give for his life."

Labor-made values are normally private property.

Need-made values are normally public property.

The market-price of need-made values is only human need measured by ability to pay.

LABOR-MADE VALUES VS. NEED-MADE VALUES.

So fundamental is the distinction between labor-made values and need-made values, that whatever we should do to the one we usually should not do to the other.

Putting an impost on labor-made values makes them dear.

Putting an impost on need-made values (as land) makes them cheap.

The price of labor-made values decreases with the demand (as a single needle on an island might cost \$5. When millions of needles are needed the price of one is a small fraction of a cent).

Need-made values increase in price with increased demand (as city lots).

Placing an impost on labor-made values (as houses) decreases the demand for labor, and so decreases wages.

Putting an impost on need-made values (as standing timber, mines, wild agricultural land) increases the demand for labor; and so increases wages.

Putting an impost on labor-made values creates congestion in cities and also depopulates the country (by making it hard to get land, which increases in price when imposts are placed on labor-made values).

Putting an impost on need-made values (farm lands and city lots) will tend to prevent congestion in slums and will also tend to increase the rural population.

Practically all taxes of labor-made values are paid by producers (for the producers constitute the bulk of the population).

Practically all imposts on need-made values will be paid by parasites (because whatever the owner of need-made values gets (as such owner) he gets as a parasite).

Imposts on labor-made values increase the cost of living.

Imposts on need-made values decrease the cost of living.

I could give a hundred antitheses between labor-made values and need-made values, but space does not permit.

WHAT THE ANTI-SPECULATOR MOVEMENT PROPOSES.

1st—We propose to make all the world see; to state it so plainly that he who runs may read; that there is a fundamental distinction between labor-made values and need-made values. This distinction was made by Moses, who ordained that all agricultural land (mainly need-made values) should be redistributed every fifty years.

A DRAMATIC INCIDENT.

On the old "Liberty Bell" which proclaimed the declaration of American independence there was cast the motto, "Proclaim liberty throughout all the land, unto all the inhabitants thereof," and these words were the very ones ordained by Moses to be proclaimed through the trumpet on the redistribution of land among the Jews at the beginning of the year of Jubilee when every man became a "landed proprietor." Land is the basis of Liberty.

In 1848, a generation before Progress and Poverty, Karl Marx and Frederick Engels set down ten steps by which the Socialist state was to be ushered in and the first step was:—

The taking of all rents for public uses.

Later Henry George wrote, "We would simply take for the community what belongs to the community—the value that attaches to land by the growth of the community; leave sacredly to the individual all that belongs to the individual."

THE CASE OF THE TIMBER BARON.

By increasing the price of sugar, of clothing, of all necessities of life to the millions of wageworkers in the United States we have secured money with which to create river and harbor improvements which do not raise wages a whit, but which do enormously increase the price of abutting property.

According to the report of Commissioner Smith, of the Bureau of Corporations, the stumpage price (all of it need-made value) of Minnesota timber increased \$7 per 1,000 ft. in the ten years from 1896 to 1906. He also states that in Virginia the price of stumpage increased in ten years over 340 per cent.

If the opening of the Panama Canal increases the price of stumpage in the Northwest as much in the next ten years, it will mean a graft of over \$7,000,000,000 on the more than one thousand billion feet of standing timber now in private hands.

The logger adds value to the tree by cutting it down and transporting it to the mill. He creates value and is entitled to what he creates.

The mill man adds value to the logs by sawing them into lumber. By his labor he creates value and is entitled to what he creates.

The railroad transports the lumber; thereby adding to its value; and the railroad is entitled to the values it creates.

The merchant creates value by keeping a suitable stock convenient for the consumer; and he, too, is entitled to the values he creates.

The timber baron creates no values and is entitled to nothing. All stumpage represents (in virgin forests) need-made values and belongs equally to all the people.

The land shall not be sold forever, but redistributed every fifty years, was Moses' plan.

Give a perpetual lease, but reserve population values for all the people, was George's plan.

Keeping all rents of land values (need-made values) for the people, while giving to each the full product of his labor, was the plan of Carl Marx.

Thus the greatest political economists the world has produced, proposed identical plans; for Moses' plan to redistribute the land itself is only a method adapted to primitive peoples; while the Marx-Georgian plan of distributing rents is a method adapted to a people more advanced in civilization. Fundamentally the three plans are identical.

THE SPECULATOR.

The land speculator is a parasite.

The speculator makes profit by capitalizing human need.

Producing nothing himself he not only preys upon all producers, but his main object in life is to get in some one's way and then collect blackmail for merely getting out of the way.

Natural resources, like roads, are for use; not for obstruction. The speculator thrives only when he is an obstructionist. When, by an error of judgment, he gets in nobody's way he looks on his venture as a failure, and loses money.

The speculator is a dog-in-the-manger.

TWO WRECKERS.

Lured by a wrecker's false light a heavily laden ship is wrecked on a reef. One of the passengers lashes himself and family to wreckage, and half dead, nears the shore only to be pushed back into the surf, until one of his children drooping, he pays the wrecker merely for getting out of the way and giving him access to land.

An immigrant, lured by the false advertisements of speculators, finds himself stranded in a boom-busted town. Discouraged, his children drooping, he gives all to the wrecking-speculator for merely getting out of the way and giving him access to land.

TWO ROBBERS.

Smith and Jones were two men from Iowa coming to Washington to farm. Each had lost \$5,000. Smith lost his money in a train hold-up in the mountains. Jones lost his money in a speculative hold-up here in Whatcom County. Both went to work in the mills. Each built a shack covered

with tar paper. One has a scar. The other has a deed. Both live the same lives. One is as comfortable as the other.

HOW THE ANTI-SPECULATOR MOVEMENT WILL UTTERLY ABOLISH PRIVATE
APPROPRIATION OF SO-CALLED RENT AND TAXES AND WILL
NEARLY ABOLISH PROFIT.

Wholly aside from what they pay as interest on the money invested in the tenement house, and considering merely ground rents, the very poor of New York City pay to Astor from 16 per cent. to 25 per cent. of their total incomes.

Everywhere the poor pay an enormous per cent. of their incomes in ground rents to parasitic speculators.

Twenty-five per cent. of the farmers of the United States pay ground rents to parasitic speculators.

Anti-speculators propose to have all ground rents, all rents for need-made values of natural resources, go into the public treasury. Some will be used to pay the expenses of those parts of the present government which are necessary, and the great surplus will be used either:-

a.—For substantial quarterly dividends, equally to all citizens; or

g.—For free governmental services.

THE ANTI-SPECULATOR MOVEMENT WILL NEARLY ABOLISH INTEREST.

Probably four billions of the wealth of this nation is in population values of natural resources, sometimes loosely called "land values," but which should never be made to include any labor-made value of lands (that is, any value created by human labor, as clearing, fencing, draining, etc.)

The abolition of speculation in the population-value of natural resources will abolish so much demand for "capital" that all the uses which are left will not be able to keep "interest" more than half as high as at present.

Hence, the first state that abolishes speculation in the population-value of natural resources will be able to collect a rental of four or five per cent; while ultimately, the rate of interest will fall to two or three per cent.—a distinct gain to the poor.

THE ANTI-SPECULATOR MOVEMENT WILL NEARLY ABOLISH INHERITANCE.

Our movement will limit bequests to earned wealth; which, of course, will be vastly less than present bequests of Harriman watered stock; or of Morgan stolen moneys; or of Rockefeller wealth gotten by bribery of railway officials.

When inheritances are limited to wealth created by the labors of the testator there will be no "swollen fortunes" to endanger civil liberty.

Thus I have shown that the anti-speculator movement, now well organized over the entire civilized world, and embracing many millions of active and intrepid patriots, will abolish utterly private appropriations of rent, taxes, as well as unemployment; and will greatly lessen the blights of profit and interest.